

The Romulus News

JANUARY 28, 2005 - FEBRUARY 10, 2005

"the little paper"

VOLUME 18 NUMBER 13

Timely Tidbits ...

Kindergarten Roundup

Parents of children who will be five years old by December 1, 2005, are urged to attend the Romulus Community Schools' annual Kindergarten Roundup on Thursday, February 10. For details, see the advertisement on page 4.

Barth Wins Blue Ribbon

Barth Elementary School is one of only 32 elementaries statewide to be honored with the Michigan Board of Education's "Blue Ribbon" award for 2005. For story, see page 5.

Valentine Dance

The City of Romulus Department of Parks and Recreation will host its annual Mother/Son Valentine Dance in the Romulus High School cafeteria on Wednesday, February 9, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Tickets - \$8 per couple, plus \$2 for each additional son - cover admission, a flower for Mom, one photo, music, and refreshments. Tickets *must* be purchased at the Rec Center by noon on Monday, February 7. (Cash only, please.) For information, call 734-942-6852.

Gospel Night at Cory

In conjunction with its celebration of Black History Month, Cory Elementary is inviting the public to attend a Gospel Night celebration on Wednesday, February 9, at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free.

Among the local performers appearing at the event will be "Midst of Lions" - a Christian band featuring Romulus residents Patrick Webb (lead vocals and keyboards), Jeff Tucker (bass), and Mike Tucker, Jr. (drums), as well as Lincoln Park native Aaron Lucas (vocals and guitars).

Current and soon-to-be fans of "Midst of Lions" will be able to purchase the group's new CD, *For Your Consideration*, for \$12. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to a Cory children's fund.

For more info about Gospel Night, call Janice Barden or Reverend Rita Talley (co-parent coordinators) at 734-532-1305. □

"City Stronger Than Ever," Says Lambert

By Kristi Stephens

Romulus Mayor Alan R. Lambert's annual State of City Address focused on both recent achievements and future goals.

The speech was given before a record group of more than 150 City and Schools officials, business leaders, and local residents who attended a luncheon hosted by the Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce on January 18.

After introductory remarks thanking his fellow elected officials, administrative department heads, and other staff members for their tireless efforts on behalf of the city's residents, Lambert assured his audience that Romulus is "stronger than ever" thanks to steady leadership and a focus on positive goals for the entire community.

Quoting Shirley Chisholm, the mayor said, "You don't make progress by standing on the sidelines, whimpering and complaining. You make progress by implementing ideas."

"And that's just what we're doing - implementing ideas and making things happen," he added.

Calling 2004 "an amazing year for the City of Romulus," Lambert cited a number of achievements that he believes will improve the community's quality of life. Of them all, he is most proud of the new senior center that is scheduled to open this fall.

"Since I first took office in 2001, it was clear that our senior citizens were going to need a new facility," said Lambert. "As I speak, construction crews are preparing the site for our brand-new, state-of-the-art senior-citizens' center.

"This new facility will be built with Community Development Block Grants and Downtown Development Authority funds - not taxpayer dollars," he added.

Another project of which the mayor is proud is Operation: Fresh Look.

"We all know that Michigan communities now compete with each other to bring in new development for tax base and jobs," Lambert stated. "These days, perception is everything. The way Romulus looks is important. Also, those of us who live and work in Romulus want to take pride in our community. That is why I implemented Operation: Fresh Look."

According to Lambert, since he took office in 2001, the City has demolished over 100 blighted, unsafe structures,



Romulus Mayor Alan R. Lambert delivered his annual State of the City Address on January 18 during a luncheon hosted by the Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce at the Best Western Gateway International Hotel.

towed nearly 300 abandoned vehicles, and cut down literally thousands of acres of noxious weeds - and, if anything, his future cleanup plans are even more aggressive.

"To assist our ordinance officers, we have just completed the final draft of a new blight ordinance ... which will have tougher regulations for noncompliance," said the mayor, who added that the proposed ordinance will be presented to Council for its consideration in the near future.

It was with evident satisfaction that Lambert next noted, "Our downtown revitalization continues. What were once vacant storefronts are now active businesses. So far, we have a thriving grocery store [Romulus Marketplace] and four restaurants in the downtown area: Whistle Stop, Metro Palace Café, Juanita's, and Subway. You heard me talk about this last year, and you will hear it again and again. It is my goal to make our downtown district viable. It is our hometown area, and we will continue quality improvements."

Lambert cited other improvements, as well, including new residential development and new retail shopping (such as the Family Dollar on Wayne Road and the nearly complete Bravada Shopping Center at Wayne and Van Born, which will feature up to 18 new shops and restaurants).

Concerning two still-controversial development proposals that have yet to come to fruition, Lambert said, "When our voters approved the Romulus race track and casino proposals [in December of 2003], we made sure all approvals and paperwork for the Michigan Downs racetrack were completed at the City level. Currently, we are awaiting word from Magna Corporation and the State of Michigan as to when they are moving forward with the track license.

"As for our casino - last summer, I traveled to Washington, D.C., to testify in front of the U.S. House Resources Committee regarding the Romulus casino. While we wait for their findings, Congressman John D. Dingell continues to lobby for legislation to move this project forward ...

"My administration remains committed to bringing a destination-style resort, casino, and convention center to Romulus, and we are working on several casino options at this time."

Guiding future development will be the City's newly revamped Master Plan, which was recently approved by Council. Lambert is proud that the plan, revisited for the first time in 12 years, was revised based in part on input from local residents who attended meetings on the subject.

"This was a community-wide effort to shape the future of our city," he said. *continued on page 11*

Guest Commentary

"A Longtime Dream Comes True"

By Mayor Alan Lambert, City of Romulus

The quality of life in Romulus is about to take a giant leap into the twenty-first century with the proposed development of a new recreation facility. It is important to note that this will be accomplished without raising taxes. The Tax Increment Finance Authority (TIFA) voted at its last meeting to purchase a vacant structure and adjoining property at the corner of Wayne and Northline for the development of a state-of-the-art facility housing an aquatic center, exercise and weight-training areas, basketball courts, day-care facilities, and multipurpose rooms that can be used for a variety of activities such as aerobics and dance. Outdoor uses will include a Little League baseball complex with concession stands and an ice-skating rink with warming stations. The location is extremely convenient to residents living anywhere in the City.

This is like a dream come true! After years of hoping and waiting, by this time next year, we will have someplace to go for recreational activities.

When I was young, my friends and I complained that there was nothing for us to do. No place to go. No fun in Romulus. We tried to find places on our own to get together for social activities, but were limited. We went to the Romulus Bowling Alley. And remember the Gooney store? How about Gardner's Field? We searched for the right place, but couldn't find it. We tried Kennedy Park (now Mary Ann Banks Park) and, of course, Elmer Johnson Park, but were quickly removed from those areas, as well. Many of us spent time and effort in

establishing the Help Center, but, again, it was not really a place for recreation.

We were bored, frustrated, and felt unimportant. We would grind our teeth and vow that, someday, we would have a recreation facility of our own in Romulus – just like Taylor, Wayne, and other nearby communities. The next generation of youth tried attending the neighboring communities' facilities, but were not welcomed.

Even though the residents of Romulus wanted a recreation center, and there were a number of ballot issues proposed, they failed miserably due to the attached tax burden.

I have always made it my personal quest, if given the opportunity, to bring a recreation center to my hometown. As your mayor, I am honored and pleased that my quest is coming to fruition. We are finally going to have our own fine facility within the city limits. Even though my generation, and my children's generation, missed out on this opportunity, I'm excited to tell you that my grandchildren and all of the children of Romulus will soon have a great place to go.

This is truly a dream come true for me, and a great opportunity for the City of Romulus. I would like to thank all of the residents of Romulus for giving me the opportunity to help all of us realize this dream.

* * *

Editor's note: The "Guest Commentary" column in The Romulus News is open to any responsible individual or spokesperson who would like to comment on issues of interest to the people who live and work in Romulus. □

Letter to the Editor

A Thank-you for "Learning to Give"

To the Editor:

We would like to take a moment to say "thank you" to the wonderful administrators and teachers at Barth Elementary, Cory Elementary, Halcreek Elementary, Merriman Elementary, Romulus Elementary, Wick Elementary, Romulus Middle School, and Romulus High School for their participation as a "Learning to Give" school.

Teaching students about philanthropy and the importance of civic engagement is a tremendous testament to their commitment to the community and to voluntary action for the common good. Each and every one of us should take a moment to say "job well done."

One of the most precious gifts we can share with our children is the importance of giving back to others in celebration of all the terrific things they have been provided as citizens of this great nation.

While "Learning to Give" creates and provides, free of charge, the philanthropic lesson plans and resources

that K-12 classroom teachers use as part of their curricula in such areas as English and language arts, it is the school administrators and teachers who ensure that their students learn about these important ideals.

We thank them for their commitment to "Learning to Give" – and, more importantly, for helping all of us build a more giving society.

Finally, we would like to say a heartfelt thanks to our young people for embracing the concept of helping to make this a better world in which to live, both in the classroom and through participation in a variety of projects to strengthen the community.

Dr. Kathryn A. Agard
Executive Director
"Learning to Give"

* * *

Editor's note: All letters to the editor MUST contain the writer's signature and a telephone number where he/she can be reached in order to verify the letter's authenticity. The Romulus News reserves the right to edit all letters for clarity and brevity. □

The Romulus News

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Business Office: (734) 941-1907 • Fax: (734) 992-2052

Business Hours: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday

The Romulus News (also known as "the little paper") is published biweekly by Nite-Lite Graphics, P.O. Box 74038, Romulus, Michigan 48174-0038.

Nite-Lite Graphics and *The Romulus News* are owned and operated by Evelyn H. Atkins.

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We are sorry, but we cannot guarantee the return of any photograph submitted to us, although every attempt will be made to do so.

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Programs Benefit Uninsured Children

It's a fact: Many Michigan children go without health care because they have no insurance coverage. However, the Michigan Department of Community Health has programs available to help families with their children's health-care needs.

If your child does not have insurance, free or low-cost programs called MIChild and Healthy Kids may be available to you. With MIChild or Healthy Kids coverage, qualified children can receive the following health-care benefits:

- doctor visits and checkups,
- hospital care,
- prescriptions,
- dental care,
- immunizations,
- vision care,

- lab tests and x-rays,
- hearing and speech care, and
- mental health care.

If you would like to complete an application for insurance coverage or request information about MIChild and Healthy Kids, please do one of the following.

- Contact your local Family Independence Agency office.
- Call 1-888-988-6300.
- Go to www.michigan.gov/michild and apply online.
- Contact the Romulus Adolescent Health Center at 734-941-1400. Staff will assist you with the application process. The Center is part of the Oakwood Healthcare System, and is located in Romulus High School. □

Guest Commentary

"Minimum Wage Opponents Distort the Facts," Say Michigan House Democrats

Editor's note: The following commentary was submitted by the Michigan House Democratic Caucus.

Critics of a proposal by Democrats in the House and Senate to raise the state's minimum wage to \$7.15 per hour don't have their facts straight.

In the face of widespread public support for raising the minimum wage, opponents have resorted to distortion, scare tactics, and myths.

Here are the facts:

MYTH: Raising the minimum wage will cost Michigan jobs.

The truth is that employment grew more quickly in states with higher minimum wages than in states at the lower Federal minimum wage. In addition, the most recent hikes in the minimum wage in 1996 are 1997 resulted in job growth nationwide. (Jared Bernstein and John Schmitt, "Making Work Pay: The Impact of the 1996-97 Minimum Wage Increase," *Economic Policy Institute*, 1998)

MYTH: Raising the minimum wage causes businesses to fail.

The truth is that the small-business growth rate in states with a higher minimum wage was nearly double (3.1% to 1.6%) the rate in other states, according to a 2004 Fiscal Policy Institute study. Moreover, evidence from a 1998 study shows that there is no causal connection between minimum wage increases and a rise in business failures. In fact, just the opposite is true. When the minimum wage goes up, businesses tend to prosper. (Jerold Waltman, Allan McBride, and Nicole Camhout, "Minimum Wage Increases and the Business Failure Rate," *Journal of Economic Issues*, Vol. XXXII, No. 1, March 1998)

MYTH: Small businesses cut jobs or don't hire when the minimum wage goes up.

Nine out of ten small businesses surveyed in a 1999 study reported that the last minimum wage increase had absolutely no effect on their employment or hiring decisions. (Oren M. Levin-Waldman, "The Minimum Wage Can Be Raised: Lessons from the 1999 Levy Institute Survey of Small Business," *Jerome Levy Economics Institute*, 1999) **MYTH: States with higher minimum wages have higher unemployment rates.**

In fact, total employment in the higher minimum wage states increased by 6.2% from January 1998 to January 2004 compared with just 4.1% in states where the Federal minimum prevailed. (The states with a higher minimum wage are: Alaska, California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington, along with the District of Columbia.) In addition, retail employment grew by 6.1% in the high minimum wage states, versus 1.9% in the other states. ("State Minimum Wages and Employment in Small Businesses," *Fiscal Policy Institute*, 2004)

MYTH: The work that minimum wage workers do isn't important.

That's nonsense. Low-wage workers hold jobs in some of our most critical fields. Statistics show that more than half the workers in more than 50 occupations are paid poverty-level wages, including home health aides and child-care providers — those who care for our elderly parents and our children. (U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2000)

While critics charge that raising the minimum wage is bad for business and causes higher unemployment, the facts support precisely the opposite conclusion. Raising the minimum wage is good for business and will boost the local economy by putting more money in the hands of people who will spend it at retail stores, restaurants, and elsewhere in their communities.

Sources:

- Economic Policy Institute: <http://www.epinet.org/>
- Fiscal Policy Institute: <http://www.fiscalpolicy.org/>
- Jerome Levy Institute of Economics: <http://www.levy.org/>
- U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics: <http://www.bls.gov/>

* * *

Editor's note: For more information about the Michigan House Democratic Caucus, visit the group online at <http://www.housedems.com/>. □

APA Feeds Community's Hungry



American Progressive Association members committed to feeding the community's hungry include: (from left) Tom Golden, Kent Turner, Pat Watson, Romulus City Councilwoman Debbie Romak, Doris Mitchell, Willie Watson, Marie Butler, Claria Williams, Sheila White, and Jamal Muhammad (aka James McCain). (photo courtesy of Romulus City Councilman Charles Miller)

No one should ever be hungry.

A steadfast belief in that simple statement is a driving force behind the tireless efforts of the American Progressive Association. The APA, founded more than 47 years ago, is one of Romulus's oldest nonprofit organizations committed to community service.

For the past five years, APA affiliate Pat's Pantry — located in the Coleman Center at 35351 Beverly Road — has been working to feed the area's hungry. The pantry purchases most of its food from Gleaners, a major distributor for food pantries and food banks within Wayne County. Food is distributed on the third and fourth Thursday of every month. The goods are assembled by Pat Watson, Marie Butler, and other devoted volunteers who find joy in serving those in need of assistance.

Pat's Pantry receives referrals from various groups, including FIA (Family Independence Agency), Wayne Metro Services, and schools. One of just two TEFAP (The Emergency Food Assistance Program) sites in Romulus, the Coleman Center also distributes Commodities to local senior citizens and low-income families.

Several months ago, Romulus City Councilmen Charles Miller and Debbie Romak approached Watson and Butler, asking how they could help make Pat's Pantry even more successful. They soon learned that agencies like food banks face many hurdles, but among the biggest are lack of public awareness and lack of funding. The two officials immediately pledged to do their part to battle both.

"Councilman Miller and I were truly shocked at the scope of real need in our community," explained Romak. "I'm sure that plenty of Romulus residents have

no idea how many people right in their own neighborhood may be going to bed hungry tonight."

Romak and Miller hope to use their own public visibility to draw greater attention to what they say is a surprisingly widespread problem. The two have also made personal commitments to the cause by pledging to sponsor funds for bread each month.

"We want to reach out and encourage others to become sponsors, as well," she said. "Whether your contribution is \$5, \$15, or \$50, it all adds up."

"If 100 people sponsored just \$5 a month for one year, they would raise \$6,000 toward the battle against hunger," she continued. "Imagine what we could do if every comfortably off resident made such a commitment! No one in Romulus would ever be hungry again."

Romak said that she and Miller are also encouraging local businesses and organizations to get involved.

"A well-known environmental group, RECAP [Romulus Environmentalists Care About People], has signed on to be a sponsor, as have Al and Carol Altier, owners of Vinnie's Italian Sub Shop on Middlebelt at Beverly Road."

"It's a small way of giving back to the community," said Al. "Nobody should be hungry, not in our city."

Individuals, businesses, church groups, and service organizations that would like to become involved in the APA's mission to feed our city's hungry should call Pat Wilson (734-331-2797) or Marie Butler (326-8167) for more information.

To make a donation, write and mail a check to the American Progressive Association at 35351 Beverly Rd., Romulus, MI 48174, and designate the funds for the pantry/soup kitchen. □

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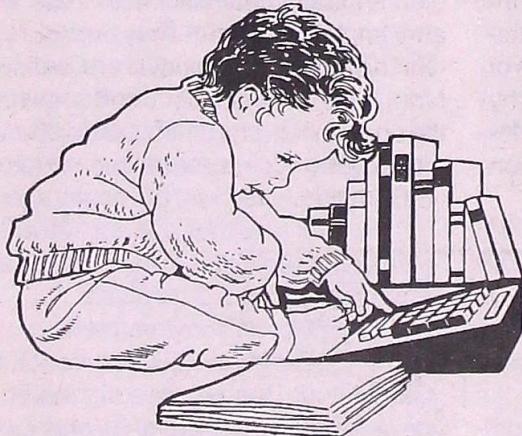
If your child was four years old by December 1st, 2004, he/she will be eligible for kindergarten in the fall of 2005. The Romulus school district offers both full-day/every-day and half-day/every-day kindergarten programs.

Please review the options below and fill out the parent advisory form. You can turn in this form during the annual Kindergarten Roundup on Thursday, February 10th, or any time thereafter at your area elementary school. Please also be aware that the all-day/every-day program is available on a first-come/first-served basis, and that child-care services are available for the half-day students.

Your area elementary school will be open from 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.* on Roundup Day to allow you ample time to fill out the necessary documents for kindergarten registration. Later in the spring, each kindergarten family will be receiving special pre-kindergarten learning materials. *Barth only: 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

We look forward to having your child in our exciting kindergarten program next year. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact your area elementary school any school day between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Telephone numbers for these schools are: Barth (734-532-1250), Cory (532-1300), Halcreek (532-1350), Merriman (532-1400), Romulus (532-1450), and Wick (532-1500).

ROMULUS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS PARENT REQUEST FORM FOR 2005 KINDERGARTEN



DATE RECEIVED (office use only) _____

I (Parent or Legal Guardian) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

am enrolling my child _____

in the Romulus School District's kindergarten program for the 2005 – 2006 school year. I understand that my child must be 5 years of age by December 1st, 2005 in order to be eligible. I would prefer:

A. All-day / every-day kindergarten
 B. 1/2-day / every-day kindergarten

Features include:

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Barth Elementary Earns State's Prestigious "Blue Ribbon"

The Michigan Board of Education has announced that Barth Elementary School is one of only 32 elementaries statewide to earn the prestigious 2005 "Blue Ribbon" designation for excellence in education. Barth was selected to receive this honor by a group of state-appointed peer review committees and a site visitation team.

"The Blue Ribbon program's selection committee is very demanding, and has tough criteria for schools to meet in delivering quality education programs to their students," said State Board of Education President Kathleen Straus. "Barth Elementary School – along with its teachers, students, parents, and the entire Romulus community – should be very proud of this accomplishment."

According to Straus, Michigan's Blue Ribbon program, established in 1982, is much more rigorous than its national counterpart. Michigan schools are evaluated on academic achievement, accreditation, school organization and culture, student focus and support, curriculum, and quality teaching, as well as family and community partnerships. The national program uses only academic achievement scores, she said.

Barth principal Diane Golka was very pleased to receive this high honor.

"Our staff, students, and parents here at Barth Elementary are really great



Romulus Community Schools officials, Michigan Department of Education officials, evaluators from Banks Middle School, and Barth Elementary School staff members celebrated Barth's historic "Blue Ribbon" designation. Pictured are: (from left) front – Wendy Turner (evaluator, BMS), Jim Candela (consultant, MDE), Kathren O'Brien (evaluator, BMS), Cheryle Buckley (president, RCS Board of Education), Celeste Roscoe (secretary, RCS Board of Education), Gerilynn Klein (chairperson, Barth Blue Ribbon Committee), and Chris Smith (member, Blue Ribbon Committee); back – Ed Horn (director of technology, RCS), Carol Starr (evaluator, BMS), Joel R. Carr (superintendent, RCS), Tom Dolan (director of curriculum, RCS), Kenneth Mientkiewicz (treasurer, RCS Board of Education), Mark Hess (principal and head evaluator, BMS), Diane Golka (principal, BES), Rick Jones (representative, Warren Public Schools), Pete Solar (representative, Compass Learning), and Ed Clark (director of human resources, RCS).

to work with, and the Blue Ribbon achievement speaks highly of the extra efforts necessary from everyone to achieve this award," said Golka.

Barth staff members, headed by

Blue Ribbon Committee chair Gerilynn Klein, had to complete and submit a comprehensive report of key criteria on school effectiveness to the Michigan Department of Education in order to be considered for this award.

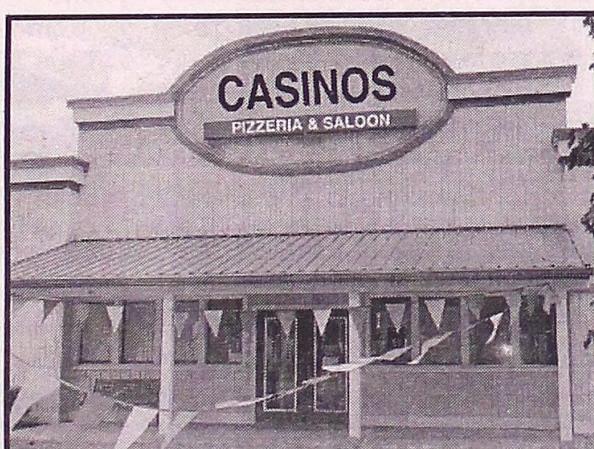
"The site visitation team from Sara Banks Middle School in Walled Lake was very impressed with the work ethic and self-directed learning ability shown by our students," said Klein.

She also noted that the team "confirmed the effectiveness of the instruction at Barth by examining the results of extensive student assessments, and by additionally reviewing the school's Adequate Yearly Progress and Education YES! report card grades."

Barth received an "A" from Education YES! last year, and has had an outstanding Adequate Yearly Progress record over the years, Klein reported. Additional honors came in both 2002 and 2003, when the school was chosen to receive Michigan's distinguished \$50,000 Golden Apple Award.

Curriculum Director Tom Dolan was also pleased with the Blue Ribbon award, noting, "It really reflects well on all our elementary schools, since they all use and implement the same curriculum. Our district's 'Teaching and Learning Manual' is very detailed, and provides the opportunities for all Romulus schools and students to maximize their educational accomplishments."

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Casinos Coupon
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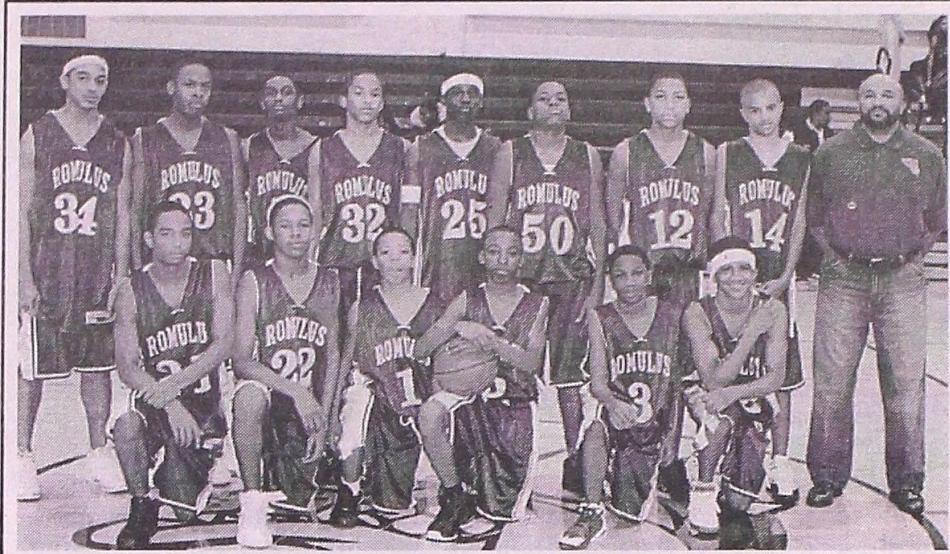
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Meeting Stressed Reading Strategies

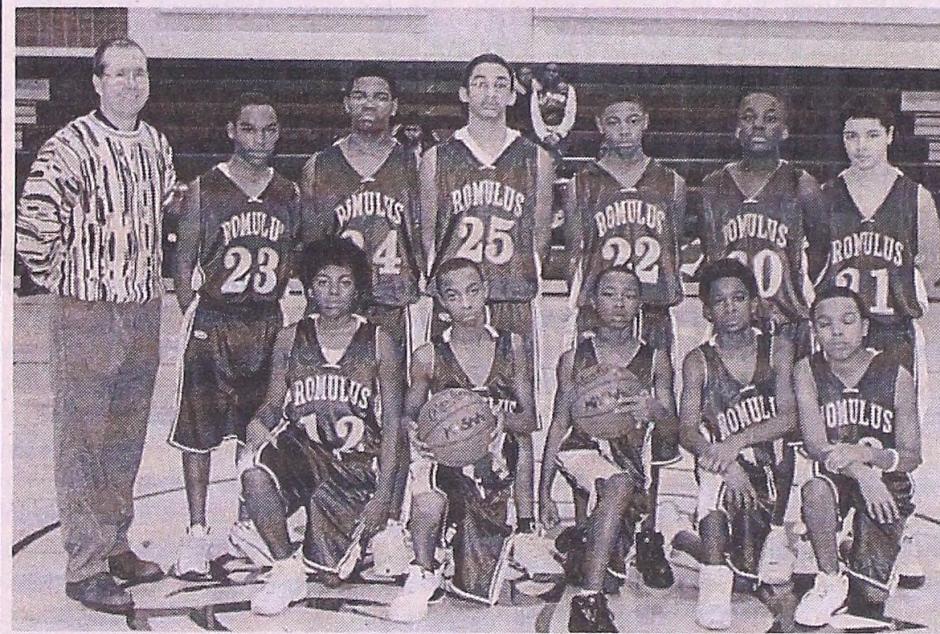


Merriam Elementary School staff members and parents recently met to talk about effective reading strategies for children. Participants included: (from left) front – Erica Daman (resource teacher), Jacqueline Lewis, Jamor Lewis, and Stephanie Wiersma (resource teacher); back – Robbie Orme (Reading First coach), Dee Raub (learning specialist), Tamara Ellis, and Renee Kish (social worker).

RMS Basketball



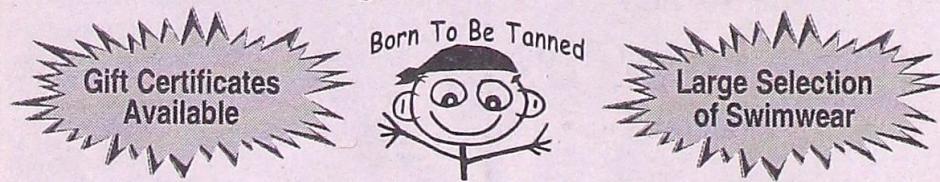
Members of the Middle School's 11-1 eighth-grade basketball team were: (from left) front – Loren Townes, Cody Barnes, Joshua Horne, Filmore Bouldes, Kevin Garrison, and Cory Wilson; back – Rodney Cofield, Aaron Marion, Joe Barton, Demetrius Price, Valdez Green, Quashon Carter, Derek Kinney, Ronald Kersey, and Coach Troy Williams.



Members of the Middle School's 9-2 seventh-grade basketball team were: (from left) front – Derek Stewart, Devonte Rush, Dimitrius Clark, Marcus Trent, and Aaron Little; back – Coach Dan McCabe, Aaron Bailey, Antonio James, Deandray Buckley, DeLorne Rhodes, Antoine James, and Chris Reyna. (Not pictured: Derrick Williams, Tristan Allen, and Mark Trent.)

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Romulus Man Is Detroit Metro Airport "Screeener of the Year"

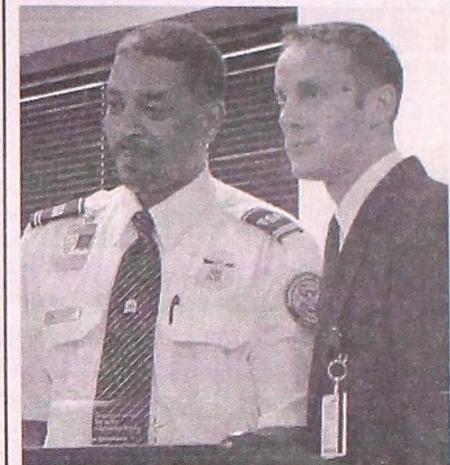
The Wayne County Airport Authority has received a Partnership Award from the Detroit office of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) for "... distinctly advancing TSA's mission to protect the Nation's transportation systems and significantly enhancing TSA's ability to achieve its goals."

Accepting the award on behalf of the Authority was Airport Security Chief Janet Baxter. Presenting the award was the TSA's Federal Security Director for Detroit, Robert Ball.

Three other organizations were honored: the Michigan National Guard, the Federal Air Marshal Service, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

In addition, 10 local TSA employees received a variety of awards in categories including Outstanding Customer Service, Administrative and Technical Support, and Leadership.

The ceremony concluded with a stirring tribute to the local Screeener of



Romulus resident Dean Solomon – Screeener of the Year for 2004 – accepted his award from Steve Lorincz.

the Year, Dean Solomon of Romulus. Presenting Solomon's award was the TSA's Assistant Federal Security Director for Screening, Steve Lorincz. □

Time for Lawmakers to Clean Up "Leftovers"

State Representative Hoon-Yung Hopgood (D-Taylor) endorsed a call by Governor Jennifer Granholm urging the Michigan Legislature to move early on a list of proposals that, he believes, have clear bipartisan backing, but were not acted upon during last year's lame-duck session.

High on the agenda for both Granholm and Hopgood are two bills related to education.

"These bills would strengthen efforts to ensure that Michigan's K-12 students graduate with a first-class education," said Hopgood. "One proposal would raise the state's dropout age to 18; the other would allow easier transfer of disciplinary records of students who transfer from one school to another."

Hopgood continued, "There is widespread agreement among Dem-

ocrat and Republican lawmakers that these issues enjoy broad support and, most importantly, can have an immediate and positive impact on the lives of Michigan citizens right now.

"I applaud Governor Granholm's efforts to reach out and work with legislators from both sides of the aisle to improve learning opportunities for Michigan's children," concluded Hopgood, who serves on the House Committee for Education.

Other proposals on Hopgood's legislative list of "easy-dos":

- "no-reason" absentee voting and other election reforms such as extended voting hours;
- approval of the Water Legacy Act to protect the Great Lakes; and
- approving a pay cut for the governor and lieutenant governor. □

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**Educators, Parents Support
Change in Education Funding**

Among those who attended a recent meeting to discuss the need for change in Michigan's current system for funding education were: (from left) front – Tammy Garrison, LaZonja Smith, Shari Stewart, Monika Reynolds, Ronda Luttmann, and Camilla Williams; back – Tracy Eddings, Lakeesha Allen, Shawn Hill, Bruce Green, JoAnne Littler, Theresa Beard, and Debbie Orr.

A group of local parents and Romulus Community Schools personnel recently met at Romulus High School to discuss what they see as a need to change the way that education is funded in the State of Michigan. The group had previously attended a Wayne-Oakland-Macomb County meeting on the same subject just last month.

Joel R. Carr, superintendent of the Romulus Community Schools, says the reason for changing the current system is simple: It isn't working.

"Proposal 'A' shifted funding away from the property tax to sales and income taxes, and the poor Michigan economy just has not been able to keep up with the increasing costs of doing business," explained Carr, who cited figures such as Michigan's current unemployment rate of 7.3% – the highest in the nation – to illustrate his point.

"State funding under the current formula has basically provided the same amount of funding per student for each of the last three years," Carr continued. "[Yet] The district's health care and retirement costs have risen 11% to 13% over the past several years."

Rising costs in other areas have also had a detrimental impact on the district's finances. The result?

"[Our] fund equity has gone from \$8.5 million to \$2.5 million over the same time period," he said.

According to Carr, action will have to be taken soon if Romulus is to uphold its current standards.

"We have been able to maintain our educational programs to this point, but structural change at the state level will be necessary in the future."

Carr had words of praise for the area's state-level elected officials, Senator Raymond Basham and Representative Hoon-Yung Hopgood, who are staunch supporters of education.

"We are fortunate to have legislators who are concerned and dedicated to finding adequate educational funding sources," he said.

Both Basham and Hopgood have written and signed position statements supporting education and adequate funding for Michigan's schools, Carr noted.

Although State officials recently shored up education funding with additional monies, the solution was only temporary, said Carr.

"The legislature shifted \$120 million from the General Fund to the Education Fund to cover the problem for the moment, but the longer-term structural problem of insufficient revenue will continue," he explained.

District spokesperson Dick Kruse says that the newly organized group of parents and educators will be vigilant and ready to take action as future political events develop in Lansing.

Anyone interested in finding out more about the new citizen group's goals, meeting dates, etc., may contact Kruse at the school district's administrative office: 734-532-1626. □

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Romulus Celebrates the Life and Work of Dr. King

Hundreds of local residents enjoyed food and fellowship, exercise and entertainment, when they attended an annual program celebrating the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on January 17, 2005. The commemorative event – jointly sponsored effort of the Romulus Community Schools, the City of Romulus, and the Romulus Ministerial Association – featured a "Walk for Warmth," a pancake breakfast, and an inspirational program in honor of Dr. King.

Approximately 100 residents, local dignitaries, and City/Schools officials took part in the Walk for Warmth. They fortified themselves with hot coffee in the Romulus Middle School cafeteria before setting off for Romulus High School in frigidly cold weather. Reverend William Kren of Community United Methodist Church (Romulus) spoke about the meaning of the walk, and how it fit in with the theme of this year's celebration: "Past History – Present Reality."

At the High School, "chefs" Don Foley (assistant principal at RHS) and Mel Kimbrough (principal of RMS) presided over the pancake breakfast in the cafeteria. The two were ably assisted by Romulus Community Schools athletic director Mark Woodson, RHS head basketball coach Nate Oats, and members of the RHS Eagles basketball team. Proceeds from the breakfast were donated to the RHS athletics and physical-education departments.

The commemorative program honoring Dr. King was held in the RHS auditorium. An audience of more than 350 was welcomed by Mayor Alan R. Lambert, Superintendent Joel R. Carr, and Reverend Arthur Willis of the Pentecostal Missionary Baptist Church. The program featured three guest speakers – Pastor Mary Stebleton of the Rivers of Life Church, Father Festus Ejimadu of St. Aloysius Catholic Church, and RHS student Malcolm Rhodes – as well as tributes of poetry, music, and dance.

Pastor Stebleton related William Shakespeare's famous line from *Hamlet* – "To be, or not to be ..." – to the life and



Approximately 100 local residents and officials braved the near-zero weather to participate in the annual "Walk for Warmth" from Romulus Middle School to Romulus High School.

work of Dr. King. She discussed King's stand for human rights, and his decision "to be" during a critical moment in history.

Father Ejimadu spoke of his childhood in Nigeria, and how he heard of Dr. King when he was growing up. He also talked about his education in the United States, and his belief that Dr. King's work had greatly expanded opportunities for African Americans.

Musical selections were effectively presented by the Romulus High School Marching Eagles, under the direction of Henry James, and by the Romulus Community Choir, led by Ellen Bragg.

RHS students Brittney Jones and Latara Steel performed a dance selection, and Cory Elementary students Riveranne Darrington, Briana Glenn, Brittany Glenn, and Dairrein Searcy read poetry selections.

Other young people who helped make the day a meaningful celebration of Dr. King's ideals were the students at Merriman Elementary, who organized a collection of health and hygiene products for those in need.

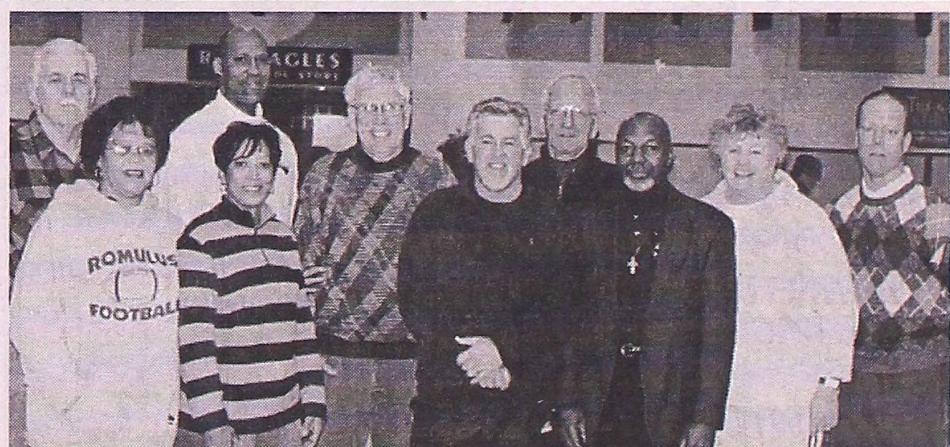
Organizing Committee chairman Tom Dolan, curriculum director for the Romulus Community Schools, thanked everyone who participated in the program, and expressed his appreciation for the community's support. □



The Romulus High School Marching Eagles' performance of "Amazing Grace" was directed by Henry James.



Ellen Bragg directed the Romulus Community Choir on three outstanding selections.



City/Schools officials and Ministerial Association members who took part in the annual "Walk for Warmth" included: (from left) front – Reverend Rita Talley, Board of Education president Cheryle Buckley, Mayor Alan Lambert, Reverend Arthur Willis, and Board Trustee Betty Lenossi; back – Councilman Bill Wadsworth, Councilman Randy Gear, Superintendent Joel R. Carr, WCRESA Board president Ken Berlin, and Councilman LeRoy Burcroff.



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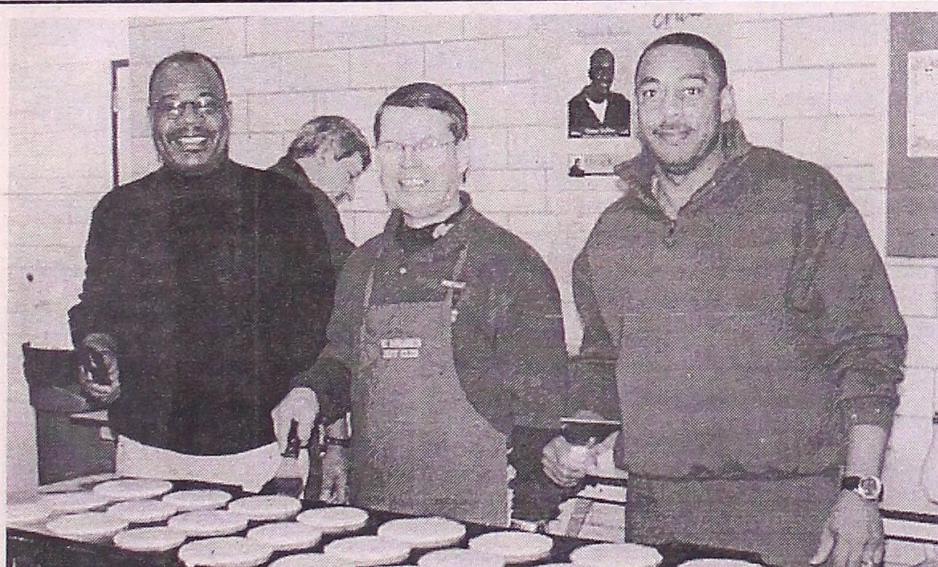
Honoring Dr. King



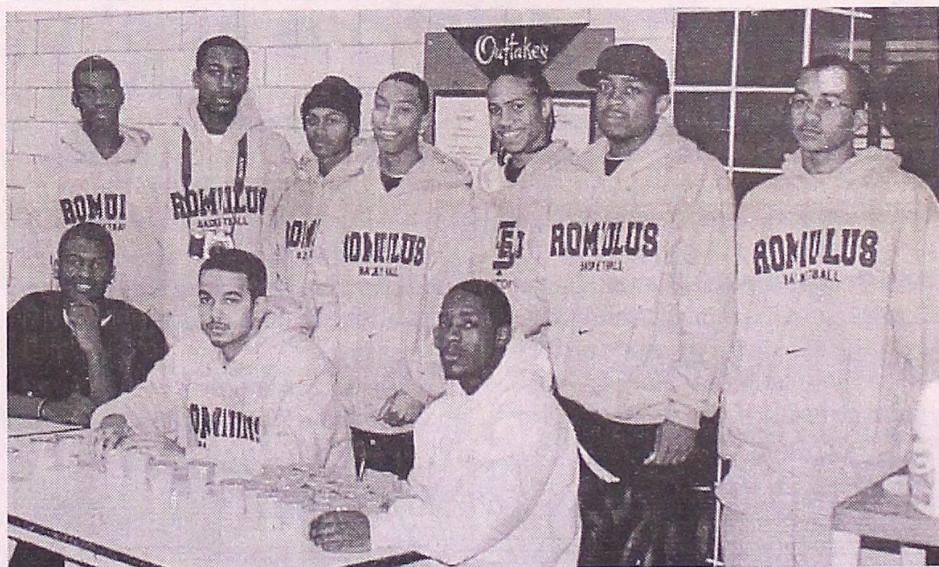
Featured speakers at the program honoring Dr. King were (from left) Malcolm Rhodes, RHS student; Pastor Mary Stebleton, River of Life Church; and Father Festus Ejimadu, St. Aloysius Catholic Church.



Cory Elementary School students who recited poetry selections during the program were (from left) Brittany Glenn, Dairrein Searcy, Briana Glenn, and Riveranna Darrington.



(From left) RMS principal Mel Kimbrough, RHS assistant principal Don Foley, and district athletic director Mark Woodson prepared pancakes.



Among those helping to serve refreshments were members of the RHS Eagles basketball team.



Among those who enjoyed the program were: (from left) front – Olivia Madison, Marcus Madison, Alec Madison, and Joe Madison; middle – Chelsea Smith, Riveranna Darrington, Briana Glenn, and Brittany Glenn; back – Dairrein Searcy, Janice Barden, John Barden, LaZonja Smith, Percy Madison, Reverend Rita Talley, and Herb Buckley.



Romulus Community Schools Board of Education president Cheryle Buckley (back, right) was joined by Barth Elementary School staff members who attended the program, including: (from left) front – Rebecca Oz, Alicia DelToro, Susan Mitchell, and Sheila Stasak; back – Deborah Street and Dorothy West.

RES Parents Get Tips for Student Success at Study Luncheon

Parents of kindergarten students attending Romulus Elementary were recently treated to a special luncheon/study session at the school. Principal Lynne Mossian was pleased to see a large turnout for this unique program.

After the luncheon, teacher Jessica Whalen, reading coach Pia Chasney, and learning specialist Gretchen Notaro went over things that parents can do to help their children with their studies.

The trio explained ways that parents can check to see how their children are progressing in reading, and introduced and distributed lists of common words for the parents' review. Chasney noted that, by this time of year, students should already be learning many of the words on the list. She urged parents to work with their children on recognizing the words and putting them into sentences. She also explained techniques used in the district's new Reading First program, which stresses phonics.

Teacher Whalen then went through an extensive review of what students

might know at this level. She acknowledged that some students might be ahead of others, and be able to do more things, but stated that such differences are normal. The most important thing, she pointed out, is that the students continue to improve their skills, no matter what their current level might be.

Whalen also discussed helpful study tips, such as having school materials properly organized so that both students and parents can find the things they need, and parents can easily monitor their children's progress. She additionally reviewed her expectations on mathematics, and explained how parents might be able to help their children with learning counting skills.

Learning specialist Notaro concluded the program by taking the parents on a tour of one of the school's three computer-assisted instruction centers. She covered basic elements of computer literacy, and coached parents on how to assist their children's future growth in this area. □



Among those who attended Romulus Elementary School's luncheon/study session, which gave parents tips for helping their kindergartners with reading and math, were: (from left) front – Gretchen Notaro (learning specialist), Pia Chasney (reading coach), and Janice Calzadillas; middle – Sylvia Harris, Wauconda Williams, Lisa Bennett, Sonja Zuniga, and Lorne Bell; back – Bobbie Allen (parent coordinator), Marjie McAnally (CSR coordinator), Jessica Whalen (kindergarten teacher), Erica Littles, Lillie Hicks, Mablene Gillison, Sharon Oldham, Darlene Grosscup, and Aaron Wilson.

Career Presentations Inspire

Simone Miller, a sixth-grade teacher at Merriman Elementary, invited five members of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity to give up a morning of their time and make special career presentations to her students. These gentlemen, who represented the Detroit Gamma Lambda Chapter, got the students started on their yearlong Career Pathways project.

Miller thanked the men for their "dynamic career presentations," noting, "It is not often that our students get to see African-American men in positions such as yours." She also thanked them "for being such positive role models, and giving back to the community" with their presentations.

The special guests were:

- Dr. Reginald Grandison (optometrist),

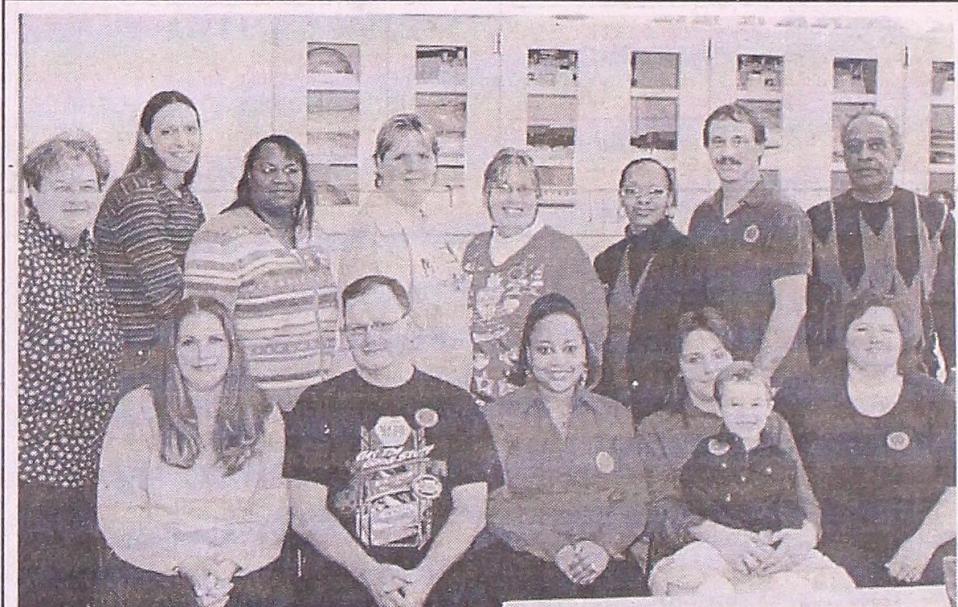
- Jay Bennett (General Motors resources attorney),
- Willie B. Irby, Jr. (Delphi corporate supplier quality leader)
- Jay Prestage (General Motors design engineer), and
- Darryl Shreve (producer and Director of Film Studies, Wayne State University).

"My students were very excited," noted Miller. "They are still talking about the cool things they learned, and how they now want to go to college."

"They were also really impressed by the career accomplishments of the panel," she added. "The panel stressed the importance of a good academic record, and discussed possible high-school classes that students would need for their occupations."



Merriman Elementary sixth-graders enjoyed career presentations by (back, from left) Dr. Reginald Grandison, Jay Bennett, Darryl Shreve, Jay Prestage, and Willie B. Irby, Jr. Also pictured are principal Shellie Moore (center) and sixth-grade teachers Simone Miller (left) and Yvette Austin.



Others who took part in the luncheon included: (from left) front – Shaun Walczak, Fred Marciak, Camisha Powe, Tina Green (and her son, Kenneth II), and Paula Valentik; back – Diane Kerns, Shannon Trackwell, Edna Jemison, Jamie Banks, Gloria Haywood, Camilla Williams, Bruce Green, and Vernon Young.

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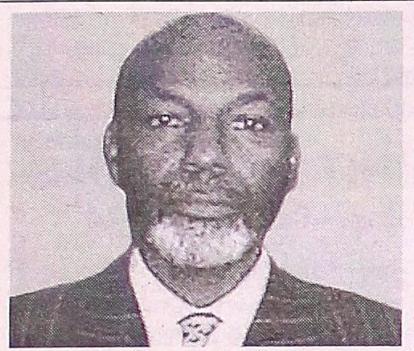
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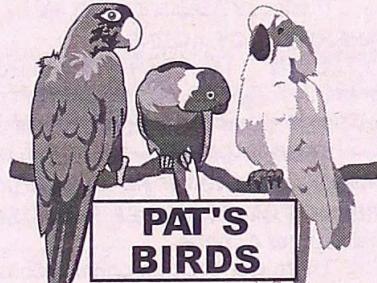
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Mayor Delivers State of the City Address

continued from page 1

Lambert was especially excited to announce that his administration is working on a plan for a new recreation center.

"Construction of this facility will be paid for with TIFA funds – no additional taxpayer dollars," he stated.

"This facility will include a pool complex, exercise and weight training, basketball courts, a number of multipurpose rooms ... [and will also include outdoor facilities] such as an ice rink in winter and an in-line skate rink in summer, a Little League baseball complex with concession stands, [etc.].

"We have just secured funding from TIFA, contingent upon acquiring property on the west side of the Airport, and we are confident we will do so.

"I have spent a great deal of time searching for the right location to best service the City of Romulus," he continued. "We have found that location [at Wayne Road and Northline]. ...

"Our goal is to see groundbreaking by early fall, with the intent to be open by Spring of 2006."

Still other achievement milestones cited by Lambert as signs of our city's continued growth and improvement:

- upgrade of the Romulus Fire Department to 16 full-time firefighters;
- purchase of three new rescue vehicles using Community Development Block Grand funds;
- purchase of two new fire engines;
- continued training of all emergency-response personnel in the areas of public safety and Homeland Security;

- improvements to Romulus Historical Park, including the relocation of the historic Wabash freight building, and erection of a historic windmill;
- continuation of Town Hall Meetings to improve communication.

Among the last – and perhaps most significant – of Lambert's comments were statements about the City's general financial health.

"I am pleased to report that we continue to maintain all existing services, and actually have less employees than we did three years ago – while, at the same time, continuing a balanced budget," he said. "Trust me: in these times, that is quite an accomplishment," he added.

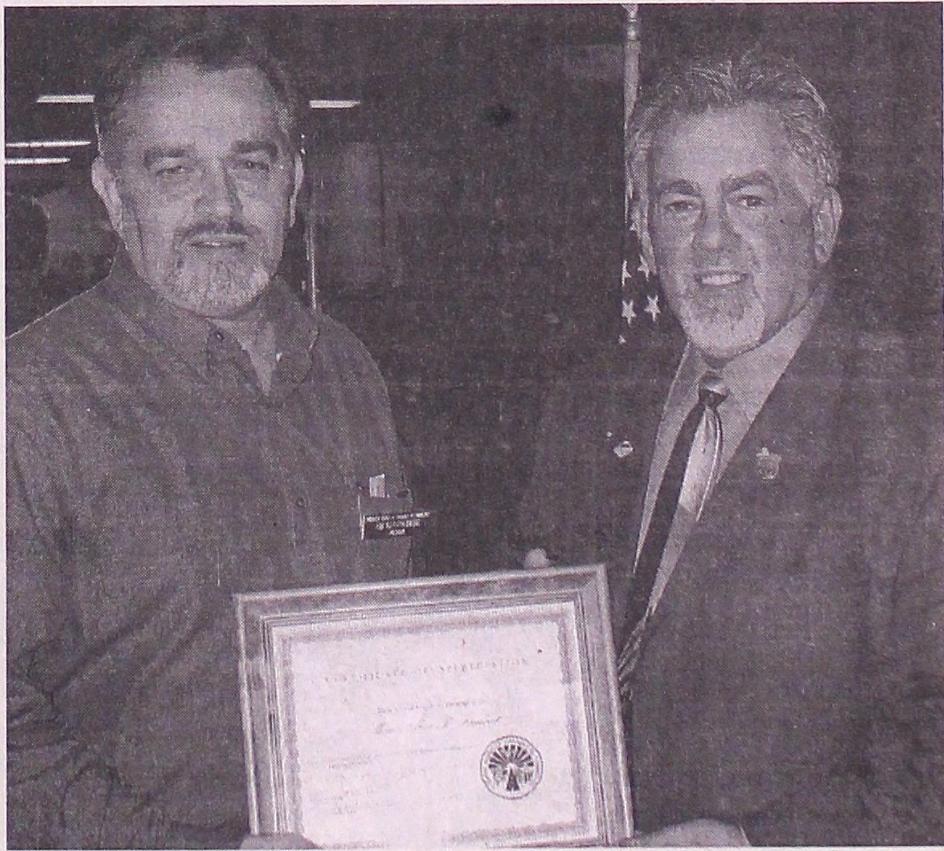
"The State of Michigan continues to cut revenue sharing dollars to the cities. Unlike some of our neighboring communities, we have had no layoffs or reduction in services.

"At the state level, the system is out of whack, and the cities have had to pay the price. Again this past year, state-shared revenue to Romulus was reduced by approximately \$187,000. This represents a 7.5% decrease from the prior year, and a decrease of over 20% since 2001.

"Now more than ever, it is important to maintain current levels of City services, while at the same time reducing costs whenever possible.

"We have worked hard to tighten our belts and provide our community with a sound fiscal budget," Lambert concluded. □

Lambert Receives Chamber Certificate

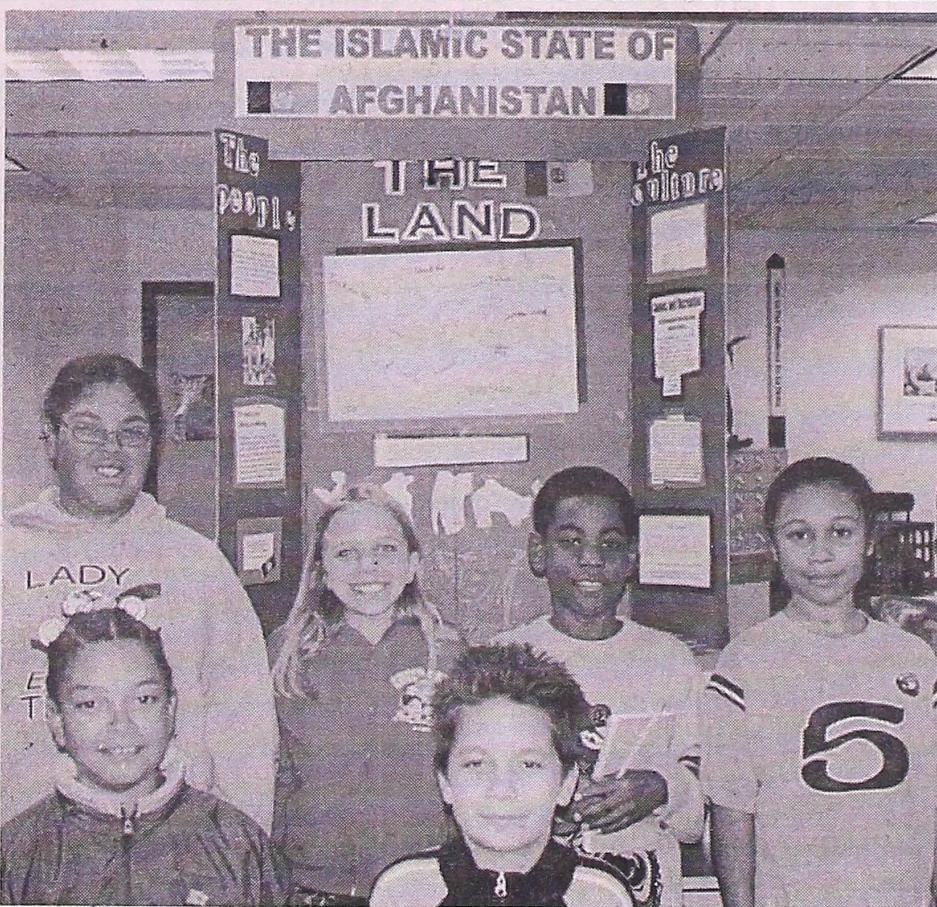


Jim Napiorkowski (left), president of the Romulus Chamber of Commerce, presented Mayor Alan R. Lambert with a certificate of appreciation during a Chamber luncheon held on January 18.

Celebrating Diversity



Proudly posing in front the "Italy" display that they created for Halecreek Elementary School's recent Cultural Diversity Celebration were students from Jason Salhaney's fifth-grade class: (from left) front – Breeanna Armstrong and Danielle LeBlanc; back – Jeffrey Fritchman, Douglas Lavoie, Brandon Myers, and Zharia Newton.



Showing off their "Afghanistan" exhibit were sixth-graders from Julie Hirschert's class: (from left) front – Jonathan Ketzner and Kyle Alongi; back – Leslie Johnson, Crystal Poet, De'Jzon Williams, and Cory Flagg.

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REGULAR MEETING, JANUARY 10, 2005

The Regular Meeting of the Romulus Board of Education held on Monday, January 10, 2005, was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Cheryle Buckley.

Roll call showed members Buckley, Celeste Roscoe, Kenneth Mientkiewicz, Betty Lenossi, Niema White, and Thomas Kuderik present. Member April Frayer was excused. Administrators present were: Joel R. Carr, Superintendent; William Routhier, Director of Business and Operations; Ed Clark, Director of Human Resources; and Tom Dolan, Director of Curriculum.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Buckley.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

1/05/1 Moved by Mientkiewicz supported by White to approve the Agenda as presented. Ayes: 6. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

1/05/2 Moved by White supported by Lenossi to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 13, 2004, as presented. Ayes: 6. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

Personnel Actions

There were no personnel actions.

Bills for Payment

1/05/3 Moved by Mientkiewicz supported by Kuderik to approve the Bills for Payment as presented by Mr. William Routhier, Director of Business and Operations. Ayes: 6. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Presentation: "Learning to Give" – Wick Elementary School

Mrs. Debbie Juriga, Principal, and students representing all grades at Wick Elementary spoke about their school's "Learning to Give" projects (i.e. hurricane relief, mitten tree, and cookie giveaway).

Purchase of Maintenance Vehicles – Replacements

1/05/4 Moved by Mientkiewicz supported by Roscoe that the Board of Education approve the Finance Committee's recommendation to purchase two (2) utility pickups from Lou LaRiche for \$47,432.28. Ayes: 6. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Communications and Expressions from the Public

There were no communications from the public.

Items of Interest from the Superintendent

Mr. Joel R. Carr, Superintendent, shared the following Items of Interest with members of the Board of Education: 1) Cory Science Fair "Thank You"; 2) Professional Development Workshop "Thank You" – Dan Hurst; 3) School/Community Compact Presentation "Thank You" – Phyllis Adkins; 4) HSAT Mini Grant Acceptance; 5) Martin Luther King "Pancake Breakfast" – High School; 6) Barth Elementary December/January Newsletter; 7) The Merriman Star (Parent and Student Newsletter); 8) State Representative Hoon-Yung Hopgood – Memo; 9) State Senator Raymond E. Basham – Memo; 10) Legislator's Pledge of Support; and 11) Martin Luther King Day Activities.

QUESTIONS AND/OR CONCERNS OF BOARD MEMBERS:

Mrs. Cheryle Buckley informed Board members about the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebration set for January 17, 2005, with breakfast at the High School and the annual walk beginning at the Middle School at 8:30 a.m., and the program at the High School beginning at 10:15 a.m. Mrs. Buckley also congratulated the High School basketball team for its participation in the Indianapolis Invitational exhibition. Mrs. Buckley further asked that Superintendent Carr view broadcasts of Board meetings on cable, as some areas being seen are appearing dark. Mrs. Buckley further asked the Board to view the Community School Paper to see all community activities at the school.

Mrs. Celeste Roscoe informed the Board about the Healthy Living Day program scheduled on Saturday, January 15, 2005, from 9 to 11 a.m. at the High School.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

1/05/5 Moved by White supported by Mientkiewicz to convene into Executive Session. Roll call vote: Kuderik, Lenossi, White, Mientkiewicz, Roscoe, and Buckley. Ayes: 6. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

The Board convened into Executive Session at 7:07 p.m.

1/05/6 Moved by Mientkiewicz supported by White to reconvene into Regular Session. Roll call vote: Kuderik, Lenossi, White, Mientkiewicz, Roscoe, and Buckley. Ayes: 6. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

The Board reconvened into Regular Session at 8:07 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

1/05/7 Moved by Lenossi supported by Kuderik that the meeting be adjourned. Ayes: 6. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Celeste Roscoe, Secretary
Romulus Board of Education

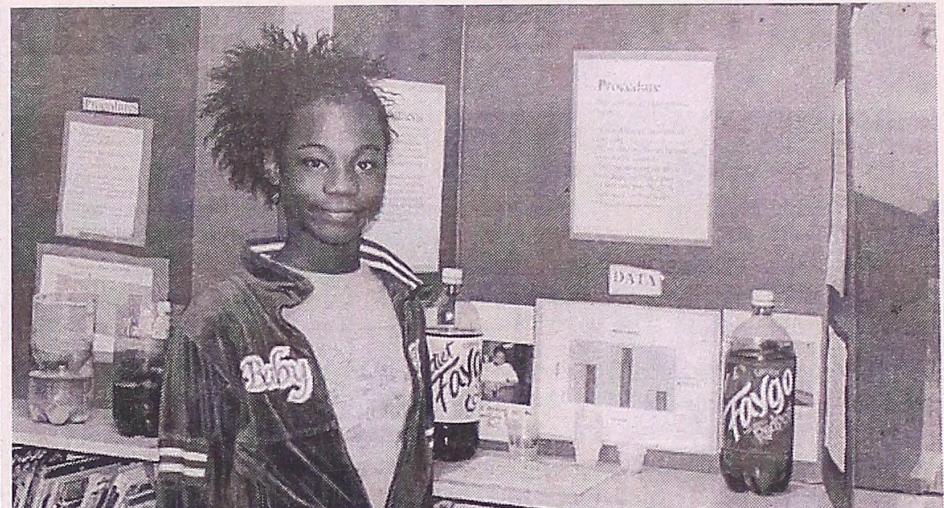
Community Calendar

- **Little League Baseball Registrations** – Romulus Little League Baseball will hold its annual program registration at the Romulus Recreation Center (36515 Bibbins) on the following dates: Friday, January 28 (6 to 9 p.m.), Saturday, January 29 (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.), Friday, February 4 (6 to 9 p.m.), Friday, February 11 (6 to 9 p.m.), Friday, February 18 (6 to 9 p.m.), Saturday, February 19, (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.), Friday, February 25 (6 to 9 p.m.), and Saturday, February 26 (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.). Registrations will be held for baseball (ages 5 to 18) and softball (ages 7 to 18) divisions. All registrations *must* be made by the player's parent or guardian, and all registrants *must* provide an original birth certificate, proof of residence (three forms), and registration fee at the time of registration. All participants will be required to sell two cases of candy or prepay an additional \$60. Registration fees: \$35 per child, or \$50 per family. For more information, call 734-955-6204.
- **"Ninepin Moonlight Bowling" Tournament Raises Money for Little League** – The Romulus Little League will host a Ninepin Moonlight Bowling Tournament fund-raiser at Romulus Lanes on Friday, January 28. Registration begins at 10:15 p.m.; bowling starts around 10:45 p.m. A cost of \$25 per player includes pizza and prizes. For more information, call the Little League office: 734-955-6204.
- **CAF Hosts Pancake Breakfast Fund-raiser** – Community Assistance Foundation 34 – an organization dedicated to assisting the families of needy children in the five communities (Romulus, Belleville, Huron, Sumpter, and Van Buren) served by the 34th District Court – will host a Pancake Breakfast fund-raiser from 8 to 11 a.m. on Saturday, January 29, at the Huron Sportsmen's Club (19835 Sterling, New Boston). Tickets (\$6 for adults; \$4 for seniors and children 12 and under) are available in advance (call Paula at 734-941-4462, ext. 205) or at the door.
- **Writers Group Meets** – The Writers Connection – a group designed to bring writers and aspiring writers together – meets at JFK Public Library (24602 Van Born, Dearborn Heights) from 6 to 8 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month (next meeting: February 2). Membership is free. For more information about the group, call Maryjo: 313-274-4970.
- **Friday Fish Fries at St. Aloysius** – St. Aloysius Catholic Church (corner of St. Aloysius and Neville streets, Romulus) will host a Fish Fry from 4:30 to 7 p.m. (or until sold out) each Friday from February 11 through March 18. The menu will feature: fish or shrimp, choice of garlic potatoes or macaroni & cheese, vegetable of the week, coleslaw, roll & butter, choice of dessert, and choice of beverage (coffee, hot & iced tea, or lemonade). Cost is \$8 for a three-piece fish dinner, \$7 for a two-piece fish dinner, or \$4 for a one-piece fish dinner. All shrimp dinners are \$8. Children under 2 eat free (macaroni or potatoes, vegetable, roll, and drink only). For info, call 734-941-5056.
- **Preschool Storytime at the Romulus Public Library** – Children ages three to five are invited to take part in the Library's free Preschool Storytime Program. Parents may choose between morning (Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. from February 24 through March 31) and evening (Tuesdays at 7 p.m. from February 22 through March 29) sessions. Space is limited, so early sign-up is strongly recommended. For more information, call 734-942-7589.
- **"Steak & Burger Dinner"** – A "Steak & Burger Dinner" fund-raiser for seven Wayne County Boys & Girls Clubs – including the Romulus club – will be held at Ford Field (Detroit) on Wednesday, March 9, at 6 p.m. This enjoyable program features a fun twist: adults get burgers, while kids get steak! For more information, contact Frank Rigger: 734-941-5839.
- **Preschool Has Openings** – Huron Countryside Co-op Nursery – located at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church (19109 Craig Street, New Boston) – currently has openings available in its three- and four-year-old classes. Children enrolled at the nursery are exposed to art, music, exercise, and field trips. For information, call Julie Martin: 734-654-1356.
- **New Life Baptist Church Welcomes You!** – Pastor Bill Hailes and the congregation of the New Life Baptist Church are inviting the public to attend weekly worship services on Sundays at 11 a.m. in the church's new home, located at 61 South Edgemere in Belleville. For more information, please call Pastor Hailes at 734-489-0054 or send an e-mail to smmajc@juno.com.

To place information in our next issue's Community Calendar, mail it to "the little paper" at P.O. Box 74038, Romulus, MI 48174-0038; FAX it to us at 734-992-2052; or call 734-941-1907.

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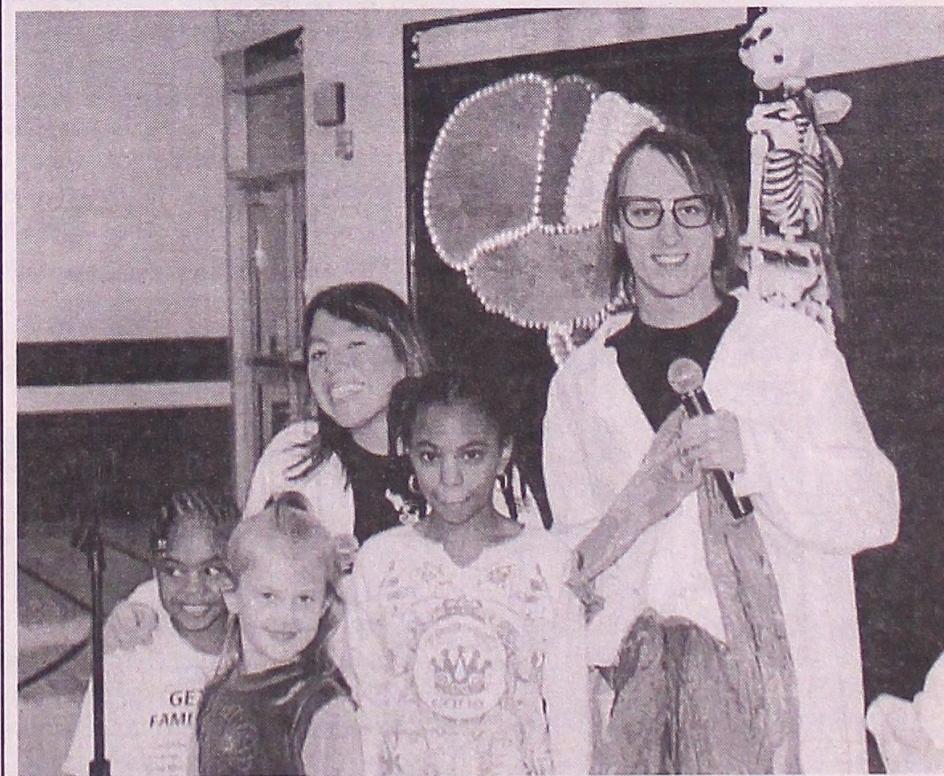
Science Fairs



At the Wick Elementary Science Fair, sixth-grader Natalia Brown showed off her experiment that tested which is more acidic – diet cola or red pop.



At the Cory Elementary Science Fair, Kyle Hensley (left) and Zachary Williams showed how static electricity – made by rubbing the balloon on someone's hair – can cause a sensor to light up.



Romulus Elementary students (front, from left) Javonna Williams, Sara Kuczynski, and Keli Boyd enjoyed the hands-on science demonstrations provided by representatives from the Detroit Science Center.

Sassy Seniors



Mayor Alan R. Lambert recently joined Romulus senior citizens at the Senior Center for a hot lunch. The Center offers hot lunches daily for just \$1.75 per person. Call at least 24 hours in advance to reserve a seat.

By Mary E. Clark

Special thanks to Linda Norman, senior citizens program coordinator for the City of Romulus Department of Parks and Recreation, for contributing information to this issue's "Sassy Seniors" column. (For more information about events at Romulus Senior Center, located at 36515 Bibbins, call 734-955-4120.)

Limited Parking at the Center

Due to construction work on the City's new senior center, parking is at a premium right now, according to Linda Norman. The senior programs coordinator urges visitors to call ahead to check on parking availability, or to park at City Hall and call from there to arrange for a pickup.

"We'll be glad to bring you back to the Center!" said Norman. "Just give us a call!"

Indulge Yourself on Fat Tuesday!

Once again, the Romulus Senior Center is inviting local seniors to come in between 9 and 10:30 a.m. on February 8 to share paczki (pronounced "PONCH-key") in celebration of "Mardi Gras" (Fat Tuesday). A fee of \$1.75 per person covers 2 paczki and coffee. Early sign-up is strongly urged.

Free Tax Preparation

From 12:30 to 3 p.m. each Wednesday between February 2 and April 13, the Romulus Senior Center will be offering free tax preparation services (by appointment only) to low-income Romulus seniors (age 60 and older). The service will also be available at Romulus Tower and Whispering Willows.

A list of materials which must be brought to the appointment will be provided at the time of registration. These materials will include:

- W-2 forms,
- Unemployment compensation statements,

- SSA-1099 interest/dividends statements,
- 1099R pension/annuity statements, forms showing income taxes paid, last year's tax forms.

For more information, or to make an appointment for tax service, call or stop in at the Center.

Red Hat Society Meets

The Romulus Senior Center is now an official member of Red Hat Society Chapter #40741. Among the group's upcoming outings are the following:

- February 18 (lunch at Rhapsody),
- February 22 (Morley Candy tour; late lunch),
- March 4 (Great Lakes Crossing; lunch),
- April 22 (lunch at McNasty's),
- May 6 (Southgate Theatre; lunch at Famous Dave's), and
- May 31 (Detroit Zoo).

For more information, please e-mail romulusredhatsociety@yahoo.com or call the Center.

Regular Programs

Besides the many special activities offered at the Romulus Senior Center, a number of regularly scheduled free or low-cost programs are also open to local senior citizens.

They include:

- ceramics (Mondays, 12:30 p.m.),
- Club One (Tuesdays, 11 a.m.),
- bunco (Tuesdays, 1 p.m.),
- bingo (Wednesdays, 1 p.m.),
- "fun night" (Wednesdays, 5 p.m.),
- pinochle (Thursdays, 12:30 p.m.),
- "game day" (Thursdays, 1 to 3 p.m.), and
- quilting (Thursdays, 7 p.m.).

TeleCare Program Available

The Romulus Senior Center's TeleCare program provides seniors with daily phone reassurance at no cost. To learn more, call the Center's friendly staff. □

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Whispering Willows Senior Apartments

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is closing its wait list for units designed for the mobility impaired (under 62) effective January 1, 2005. The list currently has enough names to fill any vacancies in these special units for the next 12 months.

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BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT FORM

If you are a resident of Romulus, *The Romulus News* will be happy to print an announcement of your new addition (child or grandchild). If possible, please enclose a photograph of your new arrival. There is no charge. Just fill out the following information and mail to:

THE ROMULUS NEWS

P.O. Box 74038
Romulus, MI 48174-0038

Baby's Name _____

Birthdate _____ Time _____

Weight _____ Length _____

Birthplace _____

Parents _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Siblings _____

Maternal Grandparents _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Paternal Grandparents _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Name and phone number of person to contact (in case of questions): _____

Attach any additional information concerning the birth to this form.

ENGAGEMENT/WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT FORM

If you, or your parents, are residents of Romulus, *The Romulus News* will be happy to print an announcement of your engagement or wedding. If possible, please enclose a photograph. There is no charge. Just fill out the following information and mail to:

THE ROMULUS NEWS

P.O. Box 74038
Romulus, MI 48174-0038

Bride's Name _____

City _____ State _____

Groom's Name _____

City _____ State _____

Bride's Parents _____

City _____ State _____

Groom's Parents _____

City _____ State _____

Bridesmaids _____

Groomsmen _____

Date of Engagement _____

Date of Wedding _____

Place _____

City _____ State _____

Reception _____

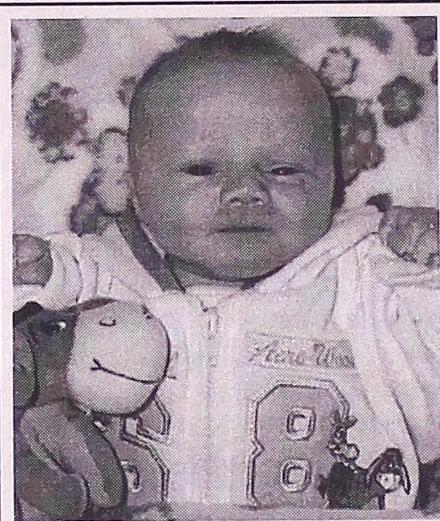
City _____ State _____

Name and phone number of person to contact (in case of questions): _____

Attach any additional information concerning the wedding or engagement to this form.

The Stork Arrived

Emily Yvonne Lawrence



Emily Yvonne Lawrence

Doug and Kim Lawrence of Romulus, Michigan, are proud to announce the birth of their new daughter, Emily Yvonne Lawrence.

Emily was born in Oakwood Hospital (Dearborn, MI) on Friday, November 26, 2004, weighing 6 lbs., 11 oz., and measuring 19 3/4 in.

Especially excited about the new arrival were her big brother, Dougie, and her big sisters, Noelle and Megan. Also giving Emily a warm welcome into the family were numerous uncles, aunts, and cousins.

Emily is the granddaughter of Leonard and the late Yvonne Polianchick, and the late Vern and the late Agnes Ogden. □

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Obituary

Phyllis J. McDiarmid

Phyllis J. McDiarmid of Romulus, Michigan, passed away on Thursday, January 13, 2005, at the age of 74.

The native of Detroit, Michigan, was born on Monday, May 26, 1930.

Phyllis worked as a paraprofessional for the Romulus Community Schools from 1967 to 1993. A devoted mother and grandmother, she enjoyed working with children, watching TV, and doing word puzzles.

Surviving Phyllis are 5 sons, Kenneth A. (Dearborn, MI), Gerald R. Jr. (Romulus), Shawn A. (Inkster, MI), Philip J. (Inkster), and Keith S. McDiarmid (Taylor, MI); 2 daughters, Cheryl (Daniel) Williams (Monroe, MI) and Trina (Robert) Montgomery (Lapeer, MI); 3 brothers,

Mike, Bob, and Dave Hawley; 2 sisters, Sally Ann Wright (South Fulton, TN) and Diane (Larry) Janick (Memphis, TN); 28 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

Among those who predeceased her were her husband, Gerald R. McDiarmid (1989); her parents, John W. and Sadie C. (LaFrances) Hawley; and 3 brothers, John William, James, and Rickie Hawley.

A funeral service was held on Monday, January 17, at Crane Funeral Home (Romulus), with the Reverend William Kren (Community United Methodist Church, Romulus) officiating. Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park (Flat Rock). Memorial tributes to any charitable group would be appreciated. □

As part of our commitment to community service, "the little paper" publishes obituary notices, free of charge, for all Romulus residents and their family members.

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